



ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 84 Summer 2018

POSTAL ADDRESS and HEADQUARTERS

Royal Naval Patrol Service Association
Naval Museum, Sparrows Nest,
Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1XG

Charity No. 273148

Tel: 01502 586250

E-mail: hq@rnpsa.co.uk

I must start by apologising for the lateness of this newsletter and for the slimmer edition. Personal and other factors have conspired against me this time but hopefully the next issue will be back up to strength.

Reunion 2018

As you will have read in the Annual General Meeting resumé in the last Newsletter, the dates of the 2018 reunion will be Friday 5th and Saturday 6th October. The Annual General Meeting will be at 13.30 on Friday and the service and parade will be at 10.45 for 11.00 on the Saturday. The major change will be that there will be NO dinner on the Friday evening. This is not a decision we came to lightly, in fact we thought long and hard about it and explored various options but last year we only had 62 for the dinner, of which only 6 were RNPS veterans, which fell well below a financial break even point. It has always been the case that the reunion should be self funding and not a drain on association funds. We are sure members will understand our reasoning and still continue to support us at the buffet after the service on the Saturday.

So, the programme for the reunion is -

1. Friday 5th October, the AGM will be held at the same venue as last year, Studio Theatre in Sparrows Nest Gardens at 13.30. This is the old theatre box office and is next to the new Italian Restaurant at the bottom of the park.
2. The service of remembrance will be at 11.00 on Sat. 6th Oct. (muster 10.45) in Belle Vue Park.
3. We will then continue after the service on Saturday in Sparrows Nest Gardens with "Sunset" outside the museum by the mast. There will be no march down from the memorial, we will just re-gather when everyone has had a chance to make their way down to the Nest and get their second wind.
4. After the parade is dismissed there will be a buffet in Giardino, the Italian Restaurant in the park but this is by TICKET ONLY at £12.00 per head – please see booking form at the end of this newsletter.

Also, in the Sparrows Nest Gardens the Martello Cafe will be open during the day both Friday and Saturday.

Wreaths for reunion

If anyone would like a poppy wreath ordered for laying at the service on the Saturday could they please let us know as soon as possible so we can get them ordered and badged with the RNPSA badge or one of your choice.

Draw books

If you live in the UK and have indicated to HQ that you wish to receive the annual reunion draw books then there will be 5 books included with this Newsletter. The cost is £1 per book and the counterfoils, money and any unsold tickets should be sent back to the Secretary as soon as possible. It has always been Association policy that the annual reunion is funded from the sale of the draw books and does not draw on our general funds, with this in mind and our slowly decreasing number of members, please do your best to sell / buy the tickets to help the Association. All counterfoils and money and any unsold books should be returned to us at "The Nest" as soon as possible but **no later than 30th September**. Extra books can be obtained from the "Nest".

Privacy statement

You have, no doubt seen or heard about the new GDPR rules that have just come in. GDPR stands for General Data Protection Regulation. It affects every organisation that collects and/or stores information on people and governs how the data can be used. The mass of information and guidance that came out regarding this was, to say the least, daunting. We took not only the printed advice but had someone come down to the "Nest" to see exactly what we do and how we do it and how all this will affect us. As it turns out there was very little we had to change as our existing system and our use of data fitted in very nicely with what is required. One change we made is that we no longer record names and addresses in our visitors

book and we will from now on have a line on the membership application forms to state that the data is stored but only used for association use.

This short article is our official notification to you that the data we hold on you i.e. name, address, email etc. is only used for mailing purposes to you and is only accessed by one person and is password secured. No data we hold on members is given to a third party.

Suffolk WW1 Maritime Commemoration event

This event, which is going to be a big one, is on Sunday 7th October, the day after our reunion service and again is at our memorial in Belle Vue Park. It is open to everyone and there will be senior Naval officers, band and a parade through the town. They propose to have 2 RN patrol boats off shore in sight of our memorial to fire a gun salute. Initial times for the event are 13.00 - 16.00 with the service around 15.00. Exact details will be available at the reunion.

Report from Ocracoke Island 2018 by Robert Eagle

The goal this year was to raise the profile of the RNPS (as usual the RNPS takes second place to the RN) and I think we certainly did raise our profile this year. The great package of souvenirs sent from Lowestoft to Joe Schwarzer (director of the Graveyard of the Atlantic museum) to hand out was well received.

Joe was thrilled to receive the package and we had to try to decide how to disperse the gifts. We decided that the museum should keep a copy of the books and the remainder to those

(mainly dignitaries and local journalists) who would take them to other areas of the US, and hope they would be seen by others who know nothing of the trawler fleet that came here. Most everyone else received post cards, bumper stickers, and other bits and pieces that Bear and I picked up at the "The Nest" when we visited. The scarves were very popular and in demand so we handed those out very discreetly. We certainly raised our profile.

Another person that helped bring the Patrol Service to the fore this year was Rob Reedy a gentleman who lives here in Moorhead City NC. He had done some excellent research and had been in contact with some of the men from HMT Coventry City and I think HMT Norwich City back in the early 90's. He had some letters and photos from some of the men who served here on the trawlers. He gave 2 lectures on the RNPS, one at the Graveyard or the Atlantic Museum and the other at the local library on Ocracoke Island.

The U.S. Coast Guard Pipe and Drums Auxiliary were well represented as were the Coastguard, Canadian RN, RN and CWWGC. The Patrol service was represented by the same 6 as last year. My wife Trish, Bear, his wife Kara, and our 2 friends, Ed and Jody. The journey up and back is a bit of a haul but we intend to go back next year. If anyone from the RNPSA decides to attend, let me know.



The memorial to HMS Bedfordshire



Robert Eagle lays our wreath



The Royal Navy was represented by Commodore Martin Connell, the British attaché based in Washington, D.C. and Commander Mark Lister, senior British officer at the Naval Ocean Processing Facility in Dam Neck, Virginia. A report of the event in the American press can be seen at - <https://ocracokeobserver.com/2018/05/15/british-cemetery-ceremony-honors-the-bravest-little-ships/>

Cdre Martin Connell

Branch news

Apart from Headquarters, there is now only one surviving branch of the RNPSA and that is **Portsmouth** and hopefully in the next newsletter will be a short article on what is still a very active branch.



Recently our Curator received a package of some photographs from a relative of one of the members of the **Scottish Branch** that closed some years ago. These 2 pictures show the dedication of the branch standard on 20th June 1991 at the Glasgow RNR unit, HMS Graham. The framed pictures were presented to the branch by Cdr J N Chalmers RD RNR who we presume was the CO of HMS Graham at the time.



Battle of the Atlantic memorial in Liverpool



A new International memorial is being planned for Liverpool to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic and the importance Liverpool played. A committee, headed by Vice Admiral Michael Gretton, has been formed to run the project with many

being ex RN Officers. An initial estimate of cost is £2.5M and more can be seen about this on their web site www.battleoftheatlantic.org Here are 2 artists impressions of the finished memorial. As you will know the Patrol Service played a very important and vital role in the Battle of the Atlantic and so we will be following the progress of this project very carefully.



Recognition



The café and restaurant in the Sparrows Nest Gardens are owned and run by Andrew Flowers and Barry Keable who have always supported and helped us not only at reunion time but all through the year. In recognition of this we have made them Honorary Life Members and National Vice Chairman, Charlie Harris presented them with their certificate.

Charlie with Andrew Flowers

Unusual log burner

I have come across this photograph of a log burner – not the usual type you see, this is made from an old mine!! I am not sure how it would go down with the wives but it would certainly be a subject for discussion.



Newsletter in PDF format

Our newsletters are now available on line on our website or can be sent in PDF format via email for anyone who would prefer this method except for issues that contain the draw books.

Subscriptions – PLEASE NOTE

This is an important item from those in the office who deal with subscriptions. Firstly, can you please note that the current subscription rate is **£8 for Served Members** (formerly known as Members) and **£10 for Members** (formerly known as Associate Members) and could you also please make sure you send in your membership book and SAE with your subscription so that your renewal can be accurately recorded and accounted for. Subscriptions become due on the 1st January each year.

Wreath laying service

With the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (and others) it is now possible to arrange for Poppy Wreaths to be placed on graves in most overseas countries.

Please make requests for laying at least eight weeks in advance.

Contact The Poppy Appeal, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX Tel: 01622 717172

Welfare

Our National Welfare Officer is there to try and help you, she cannot perform miracles but will do her best to address any concerns which, of course, are kept confidential. Bonnie's contact details are - Mrs Bonnie Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PR. Tel. 01502 584555 or via e-mail at bonniewhisstock@outlook.com

Curator

If you are sending anything to the Museum can you please make sure you state if it is on **loan** or a **gift** as it helps with the cataloguing and any future claims to ownership and with photographs please give descriptions and/or names where possible.

Web site

Don't forget, if you have access to a computer, to keep checking the web site connected to our Association which is: www.rnpsa.co.uk Keep the odds and ends coming, they all make interesting reading. If you have any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter or comments on this one, please send them to me at, Leo Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PR. Tel. 01502 584555 or you can email them to me at hq@rnpsa.co.uk

Yours Aye, **The Duty Watch**

Obituary for Summer 2018

S/M L Brown	Letchworth	Hertfordshire	S/M G Marshall	Penrith	Cumbria
S/M J Dewell	Lowestoft	Suffolk	S/M D Filer	Haxby	Yorkshire
S/M G Kingsbury	Beccles	Suffolk	S/M H Patterson	Blyth	Northumberland
S/M P Reed	Brighton	Sussex	S/M R Weston	Rogerstone	South Wales
S/M J Cassie	Leicester	Leicestershire	S/M A Guyott	Colchester	Essex

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them

Slops List update

With decreasing numbers of members, we are evaluating our stock requirements with regard to re-order quantities. It is quite likely that some items, once they have run out, may not be replaced or if they are may cost more than they are at present as we will have to order smaller quantities.

Cut ✂ or copy -----

BOOKING FORM FOR ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHTIME BUFFET - Saturday 6th OCTOBER 2018

STRICTLY TICKET ONLY

The buffet will be at Giardino Restaurant in Sparrows Nest Gardens after the parade has been dismissed.

Name _____ Membership No. _____ Tel No. _____

Address _____

I would like ____ Tickets @ £12.00 each

TOTAL PAYMENT £ _____

All bookings with money plus **SAE MUST be made by Wed 26th September**. After this date NO refunds will be made.

Secretary, Royal Naval Patrol Service Association, Naval Museum, Sparrows Nest, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1XG

Cut ✂ or copy -----

Slops items for sale from HQ (Summer 2018)

Item / Title	£	Qty	£	Item / Title	£	Qty	£
Lg. Blazer Badge, Gold wire	12.00			Sparrows Nest Post Card	0.20		
Lg. Blazer Badge, Woven	6.50						
Small Beret / Blazer Badge, Gold wire	Out of stock			Publications			
Jumper / Cap Badges, Woven	4.00			Christmas cards - original	0.50		
Association Crested Tie	12.00			Christmas cards – clean sweep	0.50		
RNPSA Ladies head square	7.50			HMS Europa Booklet	2.00		
Museum Squiggle pen	1.00			Dawn Always Breaks	5.00		
Museum 4 colour pen	2.00			Churchill's Pirates Pt.1	5.00		
Lapel Badge, Blue enamel	5.00			Churchill's Pirates Pt.2	4.50		
White Ensign Lapel Badge	3.50			A Brief History of the RNPS	4.00		
White Ensign Car Sticker	0.50			Blue Mariners CD	4.00		
RNPSA Car sticker, coloured	2.00			The Story of the RNPS, 2 CD set	6.00		
RNPSA Bookmark	1.50			Red Diamonds	3.00		
RNPSA Jubilee Mug	3.00						
RNPSA Key rings	1.00			Total	£		
RNPSA Epaulettes (pair)	6.00			P & P Small items	1.25		
RNPSA Colouring Poster	0.30			P & P Large / Heavy items	2.50		
RNPS Memorial Post Card	0.10			Total Submitted	£		

Name _____

Membership No. _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____ Tel. No. _____

Royal Naval Patrol Service Association, Naval Museum, Sparrows Nest, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1XG